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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a Notice of Allowance in response to the applicant's communication filed on March 10, 2010.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. The applicant's representative Tomoki Tanida (Reg. No.: 60,453) authorized the following examiner's amendment on April 08, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the claims:

In claim 1, line 19; in claim 3: line 2; in claim 12: line 20; in claim 16: line 2 and in claim

17: line 2 replace "includes any one of" with --is selected from the group consisting of--.

In claim 1: line 11; replace "procedure" with --procedures--.

Claims 4-11 (Cancelled).

Reason for allowance

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4. Claims 1, 3, 5, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are allowed.

After consideration of the applicant's persuasive remark filed on March 10, 2010, amended claimed features, examiner's amendment and through examination of claims 1, 3, 5, 12, 13, 16 and 17 further updated search, the prior arts of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed subject matter of the instant application as a whole either taken alone or in combination and the claims with the following particular features have been found in condition for allowance and these features are:

For claim 1: the controller obtains information for estimating time necessary to execute the command from the storage device prior to the issuance of the command, sets a wait time for the command based on the obtained information, issues the command to the storage device via a bus electrically connecting the host device and the storage device, releases the bus for another command, and waits the time set for the command before it issues a command for the next procedure to the storage device, in order to have the next procedure executed by the first encryption unit and wherein the information for estimation is selected from the group consisting of a typical processing time, an average processing time, and a maximum processing time necessary to execute the command.

For claim 12: the host device obtains information for estimating time necessary for the storage device to execute the command from the storage device prior to the issuance of the command, issues the command to the storage device via a bus electrically connecting the host device and the storage device, releases the bus for another command, and waits the time estimated necessary to execute the command before it issues a command for the next procedure to the storage device, in order to have the next procedure executed by the encryption unit and

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wherein the information for estimation is selected from the group consisting of a typical processing time, an average processing time, and a maximum processing time necessary to execute the command.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See the notice of reference cited in form PTO-892 for additional prior art.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Techane J. Gergiso whose telephone number is (571) 272-3784 and fax number is (571) 273-3784. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Techane J. Gergiso/

Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Emmanuel L. Moise/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437